

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

28 April 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

I hope everyone had a great April break and had a chance to recharge. Just before we left for break I shared the plan to finish the rest of the school year (which I have included below). With the snow days we need to make up, Alburgh, North Hero, and Grand Isle's last day will be June 17. Folsom's last day is June 16 because of the snow day the rest of the SU had but Folsom was already remote.

I want to share my sincere thanks and appreciation to the community for your flexibility and patience throughout this challenging year. I do anticipate that next year will look much more like a traditional school year with a return to a more traditional calendar and hours of operation. Of course, all changes will continue to be dependent on current guidelines, which we expect would be based on the conditions experienced in real time.

I am very pleased to share that Emily Dousevicz, the GISU District Nurse, and I have been working with the Vermont Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health to be able to offer COVID 19 surveillance testing for students at GISU schools. Over the April break, Emily and I were notified that GISU has been selected to participate as one of two school districts in a pilot student surveillance testing program. We met with the organizers of the testing on Tuesday (4-27-2021) and learned they expect to be able to go live with a testing protocol in about three weeks. This program will be optional for families and will require parents to sign a permission form. The testing will consist of a self administered nasal swab and will be open to students in grades three and up. We anticipate having two testing rounds between now and the end of the school year. Emily and I will share more information as it becomes available.

The Plan to Finish the Rest of the Year

Elementary Grades

All Schools

We have consistent routines, practices, and procedures in place with our elementary students. The new guidance does not significantly change opportunities for these grades. We will continue in the current configurations in all elementary schools.

Remote Learning Option

All Schools

At the beginning of the school year, we made a commitment to offer both in-person and remote learning opportunities. We continue to have between 10% and 15% of our GISU students successfully learning in the full remote option, accessing high quality instruction from our licensed teaching staff. We explored many options to possibly change the way remote learning might happen should we make changes this year, but we were unable to do so without negatively impacting our remote students. In the end, following our beliefs and the criteria around equity and compassion, we have decided to complete the school year with remote learning maintaining the current configuration.

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

Middle School Grades

South Hero

South Hero will double the amount of in-person learning time for students in grades 5-8 from 2 days per week to 4 days per week. This change will begin on May 3, 2021. Wednesdays will continue to be remote and the school day will continue to be 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This will align the elementary and middle school in-person instructional days.

Middle School Grades

Alburgh

Beginning May 3, 2021, Alburgh will increase the number of in-person days for middle school students from 2 days per week to 4 days per week. Students who are currently 100% will still have this option. Wednesdays will continue to be remote.

Please see individual school communications for more detailed information.

Community Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The link and telephone number for this week's community meeting are below. At tonight's meeting I talk more about the Student Surveillance Testing pilot. As always there will be a time for the community to ask questions and share experiences.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 573-349-3062 PIN: 810 989 343#

Thank you for helping to ensure that all members of the GISU learning community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent